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# IEEE Extends Standard to Enable Multicast Group Management for Media Independent Handover Services

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# *IEEE 802.21d™ defines management primitives and messages to protect group communication*

**PISCATAWAY, NJ, XX Month 2015** – IEEE, the world's largest professional organization dedicated to advancing technology for humanity, announced today that the [IEEE Standards Association](http://bit.ly/1nsGh6B) (IEEE-SA) has approved [IEEE 802.21d*™* Standard for Local and Metropolitan Area Networks.](http://standards.ieee.org/findstds/standard/802.21d-2015.html) IEEE 802.21d extends the standard’s framework for improving users’ experience for mobile devices by facilitating secure, automated handover between IEEE 802® networks, as well as between IEEE 802 and cellular networks.

IEEE 802.21d advances the standard by supporting secure Multicast Group Management capability applicable to Advance Metering Infrastructure (AMI) networks, where thousands of nodes require periodic configuration update, handover and re-keying in failover and failback scenarios. The standard is also applicable to home networking reliant on secure signaling and keying of a growing number of connected devices, as well as to service providers and operators by providing a means for secure and efficient device configuration and management.

“In our growing connected world, IEEE 802.21d has many stakeholders that can benefit by utilizing its framework to streamline secure multicast communications and realize cost savings over proprietary solutions,” said Dr. Subir Das, chair, IEEE 802,21 Working Group.

The analyst firm Gartner has forecast that connected devices related to the Internet of Things, excluding PCs, tablets and smart phones, will grow to 26 billion installed units by 2020.

“As we witness the advancement of Smart Grid and Smart Home technologies, there is clearly an increased need for standardization in secure, multicast communication, and IEEE 802.21d is a proven and reliable solution for semiconductor, network equipment, and smart device manufacturers, as well as service providers,” said Mr. Paul Nikolich, chair, IEEE 802 Local and Metropolitan Area Network Standards Committee.

To learn more about IEEE 802.21d, please visit http://standards.ieee.org/findstds/standard/802.21d-2015.html

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**About the IEEE Standards Association**

The IEEE Standards Association, a globally recognized standards-setting body within IEEE, develops consensus standards through an open process that engages industry and brings together a broad stakeholder community. IEEE standards set specifications and best practices based on current scientific and technological knowledge. The IEEE-SA has a portfolio of over 1,100 active standards and more than 500 standards under development. For more information visit http://standards.ieee.org.

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